

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 4-7 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for better clarity, as discussed in a February 14, 2006 personal interview. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks Examiner Quarterman for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Luo, during the February 14, 2006 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references listed in, and to return an initialed copy of, the Form PTO 1449 filed with the December 14, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,924,594 to Ogura et al. ("Ogura"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended for better clarity, as outlined above. As discussed during the personal interview, Ogura does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1.

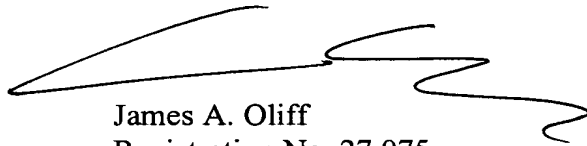
In particular, Ogura discloses a first electrode 202 and a second electrode 208. See Fig. 2; col. 6, lines 34-45; and col. 7, lines 25-34. However, the second electrode 208 is a cathode that is made of metallic material or an alloy. See col. 7, lines 25-34. As discussed during the personal interview, Ogura does not disclose or suggest a second electrode having a surface that includes an inorganic oxide, the surface of the second electrode being a separate element from a barrier layer, as recited in claim 1.

In view of the above, Ogura does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, and claims 2, 3 and 8-12 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 28, 2006

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